

Class Information

The four-and-one-half hour class held at the Dakota County Juvenile Services Center in Hastings is offered quarterly on a Saturday. The cost of the class is \$25.00. If a family is unable to pay the fee, the juvenile's parent or guardian should contact the Project Coordinator.

Topics covered include:

- * Rules and laws-consequences if broken.
- * Fire behavior-what is fire.
- * Fire safety-smoke detectors, escape plans, and fire sprinklers.
- * Fire prevention-home hazards.

Contact the Project Coordinator for class registration at 651-438-4438.

Dakota County Juvenile Firesetter Task Force:

Dakota County Sheriff/Local Law Enforcement
651-438-4720

Dakota County Social Services
952-891-7400

Dakota County Community Corrections
651-438-8288

Dakota County Attorney
651-438-4438

MN State Fire Marshal
(Automated Juvenile Firesetter Help Line)
1-800-500-8897



Call your local fire department

Eagan 651-675-5900

Apple Valley 952-953-2600

Hastings 651-480-6150

Farmington 651-463-4770

South St. Paul 651-554-3250

West St. Paul 651-552-4170

Inver Grove Heights 651-455-6103

Cannon Falls 507-263-2278

Mendota Heights 651-406-4774

Hampton 651-437-8846

Miesville 651-437-6228

Northfield 507-645-4255

Randolph 507-263-3797

Lakeville 952-985-4700

Burnsville 952-895-4570

Rosemount 651-322-2068

DAKOTA COUNTY JUVENILE FIRESETTER EDUCATION PROGRAM



**Intervention and Prevention
Through
Education and Awareness**



Coordinated by:

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How bad is the Problem of Juvenile Fire Setting?

Each year Minnesota experiences hundreds of fires set by children that result in death, injuries, firefighter injuries, and millions of dollars in property loss. Less than 10% of fires started by juveniles are even reported. According to the State Fire Marshal's Office: "Early intervention and treatment will prevent future criminal behavior and save countless injuries, lives and dollars of property loss." As reported in the Juvenile Firesetting Annual Report, more than 80 percent of children who set fires will do so again unless there is intervention.

Most fires started by adolescents occur outside of their home. These fires include such things as dumpsters, grass, woods, school property, portable toilets, fireworks and bomb threats.

False alarms in schools and public buildings pulled by juveniles are not taken lightly by fire departments. A false alarm is endangering many lives. Twenty-five percent of firefighter deaths occur responding to or from calls.

The consequences for these actions include:

- * Property Damage
- * Burns
- * Criminal Damage
- * Economic consequences to families and property owners.



What is the Dakota County Juvenile Firesetter Education Program?

A program developed by the Dakota County Juvenile Firesetter Task Force in cooperation with the State Fire Marshal Division, that utilizes a network of professionals in the fire service, law enforcement, juvenile justice, social services, and mental health fields. Through the use of this network the hope is to raise public awareness and prevent these crimes with early identification. The program is designed to provide a "road map" for intervention and referral. The classes offer education both for juveniles and their parents, as well as diversion in some cases, and are a cost-effective alternative approach to deal with fire-related offenses.

What are the Components of the Program?

- * The juvenile must attend the educational class.
- * At least one parent must attend the class with the juvenile.
- * The juvenile must pay a \$25.00 class fee. If a family is financially unable to pay the fee, but desires to participate in the Program, the juvenile's parent or guardian should contact the Project Coordinator.
- * In certain cases, the juvenile must pay restitution to the victim(s) and complete community work service hours.

Who is the Program For?

First-time offenders of all ages for the following offenses:

- * False Fire Alarm
- * Negligent Fires (misd. and gross misd.)
- * Dangerous Smoking (misd.)
- * Fire Related City Ordinance
- * Fireworks
- * Arson V

Program is also available for first-time offenders between the ages of ten and twelve years for the following offenses:

- * Negligent Fires (felony)
- * Arson III
- * Arson IV

Also available:

- * As a court disposition
- * To any juvenile who voluntarily enrolls in the program at his/her own expense or is referred by a school official.
- * For non-diversion referrals including non-damage fires, playing with fire (i.e. matches, lighter, etc.), and juveniles who commit chargeable offenses who are under ten years of age.
- * Other offenders at the discretion of the County Attorney.

